

California Insider

Siyamak Khorrami March 24, 2024

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Are California Housing Mandates Ending Community Involvement And Character Of Cities? | Amy Kalish | Lydia Kou



“The goal is to densify every town in the state. To densify it so that'd be walking around, not driving. In some places, it doesn't work. But this whole policy has been applied as “one size fits all” with no complaining.”

Siyamak sits down with Amy Kalish, with <https://citizenmarin.org/>. She's been studying what the Housing Mandates are for different cities in California. Amy's going to tell us what's happening with California communities.

"These are buildings built for-profit, single-family homes for rent only. So they're kept off the market forever. And whole neighborhoods do get bought up by corporations. What the state does is they bloat out the HCD budget, hire a lot of people to come and bother every city to see what they're doing. They write a ton of reports to spend millions of dollars on paying consultants to write reports and none of that is going towards any kind of solution or housing." Ms. Kalish said.

We've also talked with Lydia Kou, former mayor and current city council member of Palo Alto, to see her perspective as a city leader, and what's going on with California cities and the housing mandates.

****Views expressed in this video/article are opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of California Insider.***

70 Comments

[@Bklyn2SoCal](#)
[3 days ago \(edited\)](#)

I'm 1 min & 30 secs in & that's so Ca. We're moving out of state because of how this state is mismanaged, layered in beauracracy, illegal deals & just ran into the ground by these crooks... period. F Gavin Screwsome

[@RomperRuined](#)
[3 days ago](#)

WEF "You will own nothing, and be happy."

[@gauloise6442](#)
[3 days ago](#)

They want to make it so there is nowhere to run.

[@pabloautomator](#)
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If you have Zillow try this. Run a look at total rentals in California. Bottom of your phone will tell you. Then run houses for sale in California. Then see how many homes are for sale under 50k and you will find how many in auction. The numbers will shock you. People are selling, people are not renting and people are just leaving their homes.

[@sarah19209](#)
[2 days ago](#)

All cities being treated the same, all meant to be the same. Sounds like something out of the soviet era.

[@HildaRealtor](#)
[21 hours ago \(edited\)](#)

We bought a 1100 sq ft in Santee, few months later, we got the letter that we have until end of March to pay extra 5k in tax because house was sold twice the original price. You are punished for buying a house in Cali. Yet they still want to raise sale tax because they don't have enough funding to fix the roads. The corruption in Cali is 10x worse than China.

[@hlw1306](#)
[18 hours ago](#)

Newsom is "Red"

[@hlw1306](#)
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this site needs more views! the real news that affects us

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The real estate lobbyists in Sacramento are also pushing for this because housing that is turned over frequently creates their commissions -- houses that aren't sold don't create revenue for the realtors.

[@MrJbuddrow](#)
[3 days ago](#)

The fact that politicians have allowed \$90k to be low income is disgusting.

[@meesi7053](#)
[17 hours ago](#)

Wow, a representative from Marin, the most nimby county in California.

[@ronaldmcdonald3965](#)
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In Mountain View CA, they want to build dense housing deep in the suburbs. Not near the our Excellent Transit Center Deep in the burbs, there is poor public transition And they will put limit parking
The Activist tell you: "Oh, there is a bus stop down the street" "There will be a grocery store downstairs" (false promise) Seems like a lot of hot air to me

[@peterbedford2610](#)
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ADU is a clear density initiative. But, most city planners are in love with backfill and increasing density. And they are trying to shame constituents by calling them selfish NIMBYs.

[@Janzer_](#)
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Same thing going on in many major cities across the US. "Build at all costs".

[@Liberalcali](#)
[2 days ago](#)

What happened to water shortages

[@larrybarela8676](#)
[3 days ago](#)

Save California, Vote Red and Vote Republican, we need to change our political parties.

[@nagadsby9413](#)
[2 days ago](#)

The answer to the title, yes, absolutely.

[@hlw1306](#)
[18 hours ago](#)

Pride of ownership always makes for better and safer neighborhoods.

[@abc123fhdi](#)
[1 day ago](#)

the developers want to keep it as rentals for 10 years because after 10 or 15 years the rent control rules kick in and there are restrictions on how much they can raise rent. Maybe that's what they mean by lawsuits meaning after 10 years the tenants can sue if the rent is increased too much, but before then they can raise rent as much as they want.

[@light1908](#)
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All these ultra Blue townships are wondering, "Why are they doing this?" Jeez... I wonder why...

[@gauloise6442](#)
[3 days ago](#)

What happens if communities just refuse to follow or implement these policies. Not pay the fine. This is basically how life works in Italy. The bureaucracy can't come after everyone.

[@armoredghost6180](#)
[3 days ago](#)

Yes, they can. They'll do it gradually and target people one by one.

[@gauloise6442](#)
[3 days ago](#)

[@armoredghost6180](#) I think in Italy there is social cohesion and caring, in the USA it is only money that matters, unfortunately.

[@jenniferhall5490](#)

[3 days ago](#)

The fine will grow to an astronomical amount.

[@ussreeves24](#)

[2 days ago](#)

USA is heaven for lawyers .

[@UNCIVILIZE](#)

[22 hours ago](#)

As she said, the builder will still build, needing no one locally to do it.

[@UNCIVILIZE](#)

[22 hours ago](#)

[@gauloise6442](#) I get so sick of this kind of attitude. Americans do care, a lot. It's not just about money. I agree social cohesion is more difficult in a multi-race, multi-religion, multi-culture society like America. But Human social cohesion has been breaking down for a long time, world wide. First tribes, then communities, then extended families, then families, and now men and women, couples. We were never meant to live alone.

[@cccsss9985](#)

[13 hours ago](#)

Just remember this, Marin County, when Gavin Nuisance comes back to his house in Marin... where he lived before he went to Sacramento to become emperor. This is his WEF agenda.

[@dailyorangepill3338](#)

[3 days ago](#)

Agenda 21

[@901polahsvs](#)

[5 hours ago](#)

The crazy part is most people are leaving California so why even build houses

[@jamierussell6051](#)

[3 days ago](#)

Gods on the way! WWG1WGA WWG1WGA UM

[@UNCIVILIZE](#)
[22 hours ago](#)

Bottom up not top down. This government is ruining the innovative and creative energy California is known for. As a Californian, I'm so saddened by all of this.

[@donnagiamo1158](#)
[3 days ago](#)

Good luck facing off Newsom and Sorros \$\$\$\$\$

[@tfrost](#)
[19 hours ago](#)

So many tiny violins for this lady trying desperately to keep the poors out of her neighborhood without saying it directly

[@kevinwoolley7960](#)
[19 hours ago](#)

Yeah I have zero sympathy for her argument, they could build density in the flats of Mill Valley and in any other less NIMBY kind of place this would have happened decades ago.

[@light1908](#)
[3 days ago](#)

Lady, blaming the developers is delusional, it's the politicians that you've voted for your entire life that have allowed this.

[@itistime5699](#)
[3 days ago](#)

They are building USSR-2 where you will own nothing but be happy. In USSR people didn't own anything, only few had cars, everything was owned by government. And somehow, yes, people were actually happy!! They implement this now

[@nicholas2706](#)
[3 days ago](#)

Sure

[@cncfan](#)

[11 hours ago \(edited\)](#)

Nimbys are the worst. With their logic, their home should've never been built. No sympathy for her argument, and I myself grew up in Marin.

[@RussVenture](#)

[3 days ago](#)



[@warrenpeece1726](#)

[10 hours ago](#)

Actually the goal is to continue to implement the socialist inspired policies of the extreme left wing that controls CA government. State control of housing, food, education - and the means of production - is chapter one of the socialist handbook. Chapter 2 is the Gulag. It's a short book.

[@LWRC](#)

[3 days ago](#)

The government need to stay the F out of private business. Let the cities and towns decide wha they want instead of Nudesome shoving this stupidity down everyones' throats!!!

[@latinwaterpolopez](#)

[2 days ago](#)

Ok! These two gals raise legitimate issues! But they also are the problem! It screams not in my exclusive community! We are not San Jose or San Francisco! The law has made San Jose surpass SF in housing cost and rental cost! The Democrats which these two gals are clearly a party of voted for what they despise! End of story!

[@armoredghost6180](#)

[3 days ago](#)

2024 and Californians still can't figure out how to build more housing.

[@twylitegotbannedtwice3411](#)

[3 days ago](#)

Please tell, how you would build housing?

[@SFPhilo](#)

[3 days ago](#)

Everyone wants more housing, but just not near them.

[@spark300c](#)

[3 days ago \(edited\)](#)

seem cities should be super dense like san Diego, LA and san Francisco. rural towns density make little sense. the problem with these cities they not allowing super density. these large cities need to build high rise apartments. about 10 to 20 stores or greater. also condo can solve the ownship issue. fun fact Texas has build 300 percent more homes than California. reason they have less regulations. Texas has no need for draconian housing mandates.

[@armoredghost6180](#)

[3 days ago](#)

The big question to answer seems to be what exactly should be the rules be regarding housing and community? What things fall under public domain and what things fall under private domain? Is it fair for neighbors to impede any and all construction just because they claim to dislike something? Is it fair to limit how many extra floors a house can have in a residential neighborhood of single family homes? Why can't more land be used for construction and more infrastructure built? The guest has some good points, but how does she have any right to keep "her community" the way it is always and forever?

[@spark300c](#)

[2 days ago](#)

[@armoredghost6180](#) well they all ready chosen by how many kids they have. some cities should grow cities but rural cities far major cities should not be force to grow for immigrants. it major cities people move to and the one that should grow. it makes little sense to build a high rise in rural town out in the boonies. especially like places in eastern California, northern California and central valley area. just about everyone wants to move south cal and bay area.

[@unknownuknown436](#)

[22 hours ago](#)

It's always boomers complaining. They got to have their cake and now want the younger generations cake too.